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Front Edit Other
Page Page Page 13A

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Knife, Fork Club Told U. S. Word Not Believed

By TOM HARRIS
Waco Tribune-Herald Staff

World traveler and Asian expert Philip Cummings told the Knife and Fork Club Friday night there is no nation in the world today that thinks the United States will back up policies it professes.

He cited the Hungarian revolution and the Cuban crisis as two instances in which we encouraged a minority sympathetic to the U. S. and then failed to back it.

"It is nothing more immoral than for a nation to engage in limited warfare, because you engage an enemy and do not attempt to defeat him," Cummins said, quoting Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

He said diplomatic failures in Southeast Asia are largely due to our policy of not depending on our ambassadors.

"French diplomats have been

undermining us in every Asian country," he said.

"The CIA goes into a country and creates problems," he said.

"They never let the ambassador know what they are doing, yet the ambassador is supposed to report to Washington on everything that is going on in a country."

He said the ability of the CIA and presidential fact-finders to deal directly with the head of government in a country without going through the ambassador, weakens the ambassador's standing in the eyes of the foreign governments.

Cummings said we should try to support a country as a whole, rather than contribute to the rise of a selfish power faction.

"Diem failed utterly in Viet Nam because he could not leave off building his mandarin empire long enough to fight communism," he said.

The Knife and Fork Club will meet at Holiday Inn March 17.

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